

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13-17, 19, 34-36, and 38-55 are pending in the application. The indication of the allowability of Claims 8, 13, 15-17, 35, 36, 38-40, and 45-53 [sic: 45-52] is noted with appreciation. Claims 3, 4, 9, 14, 19, 34, 41-44, and 53-55 have been rejected. Claims 3, 4, 9, 14, 19, 34, 41, 44, and 53-55 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13-17, 19, 34-36, and 38-55 in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 3, 9, 14, 19, 34, 41-44, and 53-55

Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 3, 9, 14, 19, 34, 41-44, and 53-55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as lacking enablement. The Office Action states that the specification, while enabling for therapeutic and diagnostic agents, is not enabling for prophylactic agents. Without acquiescence to the Examiner's rejection and to advance to issuance a patent directed to allowable subject matter, Claims 3, 9, 14, 19, 34, 41, 44, and 53-55 have been amended to delete the recitation of prophylactic agents. In view of the amendments, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The Rejection of Claim 4 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

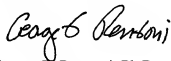
Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The Office Action states that the term "naturally derived polymer" is indefinite. Without acquiescence to the Examiner's rejection and to advance to issuance a patent directed to allowable subject matter, Claim 4 has been amended to recite "natural polymer." In view of the amendment, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of above amendments and foregoing remarks, applicants believe that Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13-17, 19, 34-36, and 38-55 are in condition for allowance. If any issue remains that may be expeditiously addressed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' attorney at 206.695.1755.

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